

CLAIMS

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1. A data transmitting apparatus comprising:
an interface that can be connected to various external apparatuses;
external-apparatus identifying means for determining the type of an external apparatus connected to the interface and outputting data representing the type of the external apparatus; and
control means for controlling transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface, in accordance with the result of determining the type of the external apparatus.
2. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the external-apparatus identifying means determines whether the external apparatus is a data storage apparatus that has memory means for storing the data input through the interface, and the control means stops the transmission of output data to the external apparatus when the external-apparatus identifying means determines that the external apparatus is a data storage apparatus.
3. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the external-apparatus identifying means determines the version of the external apparatus, and the control means controls the transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface, in accordance with the version of the external apparatus.
4. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in

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that the external-apparatus identifying means determines whether the external apparatus is a copyright-related one, and the control means controls the transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface, in accordance with the result of determination.

5. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the control means controls the transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface, in accordance with copy-permitting information that controls copying of the output data.

6. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 5, characterized in that data-reproducing means is provided for reproducing the output data from a recording medium, and the copy-permitting information is recorded on the recording medium together with the copy-permitting information.

7. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the control means controls the transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface, in accordance with an amount in which the output data is to be transmitted to the external apparatus.

8. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the control means controls the transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface, in accordance with a speed at which the output data is to be transmitted to the external apparatus.

9. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in

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that data-reproducing means is provided for reproducing the output data from a recording medium, and the control means controls the transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface, in accordance with the recording medium.

10. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the control means selectively encrypts the output data before the output data is transmitted to the external apparatus.


11. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that fee-charging means is provided for charging a fee in accordance with the transmission of output data through the interface, and the control means controls a fee-charging process performed by the fee-charging means, in accordance with a result of determination made by the external-apparatus identifying means.

12. A data transmitting method for use in a data transmitting apparatus having an interface that can be connected to various external apparatuses, said method comprising the steps of:

determining the type of an external apparatus connected to the interface and outputting data representing the type of the external apparatus; and

controlling transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface, in accordance with the result of determining the type of the external apparatus.

13. The data transmitting method according to claim 12, characterized in that it is determined, in the step of determining the type of the external apparatus, whether




the external apparatus is a data storage apparatus that has memory means for storing the data input through the interface, and the transmission of output data to the external apparatus is stopped in the step of controlling transmission of output data when the external-apparatus identifying means determines that the external apparatus is a data storage apparatus.

14. The data transmitting method according to claim 12, characterized in that a version of the external apparatus is determined in the step of controlling transmission of output data, and the transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface is controlled in the step of controlling transmission of output data in accordance with the version of the external apparatus.

15. The data transmitting method according to claim 12, characterized in that it is determined, in the step of determining the type of the external apparatus, whether the external apparatus is a copyright-related one, and the transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface is controlled in the step of controlling transmission of output data in accordance with the result of determination.

16. The data transmitting method according to claim 12, characterized in that the transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface is controlled in the step of controlling transmission of output data in accordance with copy-permitting information that controls copying of the output data.

17. The data transmitting method according to claim 16, characterized in that a data-reproducing step is provided for reproducing the output data from a recording



medium, and the copy-permitting information is recorded on the recording medium together with the copy-permitting information.


18. The data transmitting method according to claim 12, characterized in that the transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface is controlled in the step of controlling the transmission of output data in accordance with an amount in which the output data is to be transmitted to the external apparatus.

19. The data transmitting method according to claim 12, characterized in that the transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface is controlled in the step of controlling the transmission of output data in accordance with a speed at which the output data is to be transmitted to the external apparatus.

20. The data transmitting method according to claim 12, characterized in that a step of reproducing data is provided for reproducing the output data from a recording medium, and the transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interface in the step of controlling the transmission of output data in accordance with the recording medium.

21. The data transmitting method according to claim 12, characterized in that the output data is selectively encrypted, in the step of controlling the transmission of output data, before the output data is transmitted to the external apparatus.

22. The data transmitting method according to claim 12, characterized in that a fee-charging step is provided for charging a fee in accordance with the transmission of output data through the interface, and a fee-charging process performed by the fee-

 charging means is controlled in the step of controlling the transmission of output data in accordance with a result of determination made by the external-apparatus identifying means.


23. A data transmitting apparatus comprising:
a plurality of interfaces of different types; and
control means for controlling transmission of output data through the interfaces in accordance with the types of interfaces.

24. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 23, characterized in that the control means controls the transmission of output data through the interfaces, in accordance with copy-permitting information that controls copying of the output data.

25. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 24, characterized in that data-reproducing means is provided for reproducing the output data from a recording medium, and the copy-permitting information is recorded on the recording medium together with the copy-permitting information.

26. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 23, characterized in that the control means controls the transmission of output data through the interfaces, in accordance with an amount in which the output data is to be transmitted.

27. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 23, characterized in that the control means controls the transmission of output data through the interfaces, in accordance with a speed at which the output data is to be transmitted.

 28. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 23, characterized in that data-reproducing means is provided for reproducing the output data from a recording medium, and the control means controls the transmission of output data through the interfaces, in accordance with the recording medium.


29. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 23, characterized in that the control means selectively encrypts the output data before the output data is transmitted.

30. The data transmitting apparatus according to claim 23, characterized in that fee-charging means is provided for charging a fee in accordance with the transmission of output data through the interfaces, and the control means controls a fee-charging process performed by the fee-charging means, in accordance with the types of the interfaces.

31. A data transmitting method for use in a data transmitting apparatus having a plurality of interfaces of different types, said method comprising the steps of:
controlling transmission of output data through the interfaces, in accordance with the types of the interfaces.

32. The data transmitting method according to claim 31, characterized in that the transmission of output data through the interfaces is controlled in the step of controlling transmission of output data in accordance with copy-permitting information that controls copying of the output data.

33. The data transmitting method according to claim 32, characterized in that

 a data-reproducing step is provided for reproducing the output data from a recording medium, and the copy-permitting information is recorded on the recording medium together with the copy-permitting information.

34. The data transmitting method according to claim 31, characterized in that the transmission of output data to the external apparatus through the interfaces is controlled in the step of controlling the transmission of output data in accordance with an amount in which the output data is to be transmitted to the external apparatus.

35. The data transmitting method according to claim 31, characterized in that the transmission of output data through the interfaces is controlled in the step of controlling the transmission of output data in accordance with a speed at which the output data is to be transmitted to the external apparatus.

36. The data transmitting method according to claim 31, characterized in that a step of reproducing data is provided for reproducing the output data from a recording medium, and the transmission of output data through the interfaces in the step of controlling the transmission of output data in accordance with the recording medium.

37. The data transmitting method according to claim 31, characterized in that the output data is selectively encrypted, in the step of controlling the transmission of output data, before the output data is transmitted.

38. The data transmitting method according to claim 31, characterized in that a fee-charging step is provided for charging a fee in accordance with the transmission of output data through the interfaces, and a fee-charging process performed by the fee-

charging means is controlled in the step of controlling the transmission of output data in accordance with the types of interfaces.

39. A data transmitting apparatus for transmitting output data reproduced from a recording medium, comprising:

an interface for transmitting the output data; and

fee-charging control means for performing a fee-charging process in accordance with the transmission of output data through the interface and for controlling the transmission of output data,

wherein the fee-charging control means performs the fee-charging process by updating, in accordance with the fee to be charged, data recorded on the recording medium and corresponding to a sum of fees that can be charged for the recording medium, and stops the transmission of output data through the interface when the data corresponding to the sum of fees reaches or exceeds a predetermined value.

40. A data transmitting apparatus for transmitting output data reproduced from a recording medium, comprising:

an interface for transmitting the output data; and

fee-charging control means for performing a fee-charging process in accordance with the transmission of output data through the interface and for controlling the transmission of output data,

wherein the fee-charging control means performs the fee-charging process by sequentially recording data, in accordance with the fee to be charged, in a region

provided in the recording medium and corresponding to a sum of fees that can be charged for the recording medium recorded, and stops the transmission of output data through the interface when the region corresponding to the sum of fees decreases in size to a predetermined size or becomes smaller than the predetermined size.


41. A data transmitting method for use in a data transmitting apparatus for transmitting, through an interface, output data reproduced from a recording medium, said method comprising:

a fee-charging control step of performing a fee-charging process in accordance with the transmission of output data through the interface and controlling the transmission of output data,

wherein the fee-charging control step is to perform the fee-charging process by updating, in accordance with the fee to be charged, data recorded on the recording medium and corresponding to a sum of fees that can be charged for the recording medium, and to stop the transmission of output data through the interface when the data corresponding to the sum of fees reaches or exceeds a predetermined value.

42. A data transmitting method for use in a data transmitting apparatus for transmitting, through an interface, output data reproduced from a recording medium, said method comprising:

a fee-charging control step of performing a fee-charging process in accordance with the transmission of output data through the interface and controlling the transmission of output data,

 wherein the fee-charging control step is to perform the fee-charging process by sequentially recording data, in accordance with the fee to be charged, in a region provided in the recording medium and corresponding to a sum of fees that can be charged for the recording medium recorded, and to stop the transmission of output data through the interface when the region corresponding to the sum of fees decreases in size to a predetermined size or becomes smaller than the predetermined size.

43. A data recording medium recording desired data, wherein data corresponding to a sum of fees that can be charged for accesses to the recording medium is recorded and can be updated.

44. A data recording medium recording desired data, wherein a region corresponding to a sum of fees that can be charged for accesses to the recording medium is provided and data can be recorded in the region.